



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

MECAP news

MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS ALERT PROJECT

July 2024

The following pages summarize a few MECAP reports received by CPSC and selected for follow-up investigations. The entries include a brief description of the incident to illustrate the type and nature of the reported fatalities. This important information helps CPSC carry out its mission to protect the public from product-related injuries and deaths.

We appreciate your support; please continue to report your product-related cases to us.

Yolanda Nash

Program Analyst

Division of Hazard and Injury Data Systems Directorate for Epidemiology

ynash@cpsc.gov

1-800-638-8095 x7502 or
301-504-7502

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

This report was prepared by the CPSC staff. It has not been reviewed or approved by the Commission and may not represent the views of the Commission.

***Cases selected for CPSC follow-up investigation**

Asphyxiation/Suffocation

*A 4-month-old female was found unresponsive while sleeping with her twin on a shared nursing pillow in a play yard/nursing center bassinet. The mother discovered the decedent's head had slipped down between the pillow and the fabric wall of the play yard. EMS transported her to the hospital, where she was declared deceased. The cause of death was positional asphyxia and smothering, accidental.

*A 20-month-old female was discovered unresponsive in a crib. The mother had placed the decedent and her sister down for a nap. The mother went to wake them from their nap and found the baby seated, partially suspended in the corner of her crib, with the cord from a baby monitor looped around her neck. The cause of death is asphyxia due to hanging.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

*A 62-year-old male was found unresponsive at home in bed next to a deceased dog. According to the Fire Department, the carbon monoxide levels were high. The cause of the man's death was carbon monoxide poisoning due to an exhaust pipe for the water heater was disconnected.

*A 64-year-old male died from carbon monoxide exposure at his residence. A gas boiler exhaust metal pipe was eroded and caused carbon monoxide poisoning.

Fire

*A 72-year-old male died at his residence from a fire. The decedent fell asleep while heating some food on the electric range. He left the burner on, which ignited the plastic and rubber components of an unplugged electric can opener placed atop the electric range and adjacent to the burner. The fire had self-extinguished, and the only items that had become ignited were the electric can opener components and a pot handle on the range. The cause of death was smoke inhalation.

A 70-year-old male died from a home explosion from a gas leak under the stove. The decedent installed a natural gas stove, which he converted to propane gas, which caused the explosion and fire. The house was completely leveled. The decedent's wife was present and was found under debris and transported to the hospital where she later died. The decedent was pronounced dead on the scene.

Submersion

*A 6-month-old male died when he was placed in an infant tub and left unattended while the water was running. The mother came back and found the baby no longer in the infant tub but in the regular bath tub, floating and unresponsive. Despite lifesaving efforts by EMS and Police, the decedent was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning.

A 53-year-old female was found deceased in a hot tub at her home. The cause of death was drowning with the use of ethanol and sertraline and seizure disorder.

ATV/UTV

A 42-year-old male died from an ATV incident. The decedent was thrown from his ATV while driving at a high rate of speed in a residential area. He landed on his head on an asphalt-paved road. The decedent was drinking alcohol prior to the incident. The cause of death was blunt force head trauma.

A 24-year-old male died from injuries on an ATV. The decedent was the sole driver of a off highway vehicle and was unhelmeted. His roommate heard the crash and found the decedent outside of the ATV, pinned under the wheel. The cause of death was blunt force head trauma.

Other Hazards

A 42-year-old male suffered severe injuries when he lit a firework, and it exploded in his face. The decedent sustained injuries to his eye and a laceration to his chin. EMS transported him to the hospital, where they were prepped for eye surgery when they discovered he had suffered a heart attack. ER physician postponed the eye surgery due to his heart condition. A few days later, the decedent was found dead at home. The cause of death was ischemic cardiomyopathy.

A 26-year-old male died from a dirt bike incident. The decedent rode up a ramp and attempted a jump, but his front wheel collided with the ramp, causing him to crash to the ground. Emergency Rescue arrived and pronounced him dead on the scene. The cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries due to a dirt bike collision.

A 62-year-old female died from a bicycle injury. The decedent was participating in a triathlon event when a vehicle struck her at an intersection. She was airlifted to a local hospital and admitted for treatment. Her condition declined, and two days later, she was pronounced dead. The cause of death was blunt force injuries



The Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project (MECAP) is designed to collect timely information on fatalities associated with consumer products. There are thousands of consumer products under the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC's) jurisdiction, and the Commission staff needs your help in identifying

potentially hazardous products or hazard patterns that contribute to deaths of consumers.

Medical examiners and coroners should submit fatality reports and reports of harm or potential harm involving consumer products to CPSC. Guidelines for completing and submitting a MECAP report are located at [saferproducts.gov/IncidentReporting](https://www.saferproducts.gov/IncidentReporting)

There are several ways you can report a MECAP case:

- ONLINE MECAP reporting at Internet portal [saferproducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov)
- Phone: 1-800-638-8095
- Fax number: 301-504-0038
- E-mail: mecaps@cpsc.gov
- Postal Mail:
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project (MECAP)
Attn: Yolanda Nash
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Please contact CPSC to report fatalities that are associated with a consumer product. Every MECAP report is important to CPSC investigators and will be included in the CPSC's incident database. All it takes is one MECAP report to alert the CPSC to a potentially hazardous product. The MECAP reports help CPSC staff identify longstanding, hidden, and emerging product safety hazards. The data is crucial to reducing the risk of death and injury to consumers.

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